School for Advanced Studies Homestead Campus 2025-2026 Summer Reading

Lord of the Flies

by William Golding

📖 Lord of the Flies by William Golding pdf

Assignment

Over the summer, all SAS Homestead students are required to read *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding for their Language Arts course.

Furthermore, students are required to answer five questions from page 2 of this document. This assignment is due on the first day of school, typed or neatly handwritten.

In addition, students should be prepared to discuss the text aloud and complete additional coursework on the novel.

Why this book?

Lord of the Flies by William Golding is a profound exploration of human nature, offering insight into mankind's psyche. Through the story of a group of boys stranded on a deserted island, Golding dissects the tension between civilization and savagery, examining how quickly social order can collapse in the absence of authority. The novel delves into the complexities of power, fear, and morality, providing a reflection on humanity's innate impulses and the fragility of societal structures. Its literary merit lies not only in its gripping narrative but also in its ability to probe the deepest philosophical questions about the essence of man.

I look forward to discussing this with you when we meet this fall. - Ms. Pedroso

Editorial Reviews

"*Lord of the Flies* is one of my favorite books. I still read it every couple of years."
—Suzanne Collins, author of *The Hunger Games* trilogy

"I finished the last half of *Lord of the Flies* in a single afternoon, my eyes wide, my heart pounding, not thinking, just inhaling....My rule of thumb as a writer and reader—largely formed by *Lord of the Flies*—is feel it first, think about it later."
—Stephen King

"This brilliant work is a frightening parody on man's return [in a few weeks] to that state of darkness from which it took him thousands of years to emerge. Fully to succeed, a fantasy must approach very close to reality. *Lord of the Flies* does. It must also be superbly written. It is."
—*The New York Times* Book Review

Directions: After reading William Golding's Lord of the Flies, answer any five questions from the list below, due on the first day of school, typed or neatly handwritten. Your short responses should achieve paragraph structure and include claims, text evidence, and commentary. Additionally, you are encouraged to take notes and define any unfamiliar vocabulary encountered while reading.

1. In Lord of the Flies, William Golding explores the tension between civilization and savagery. How do the characters' actions and the novel's setting reveal the inherent conflict between these two forces? Use specific examples to support your response.
2. The "beast" in Lord of the Flies represents different things to different characters. Choose two characters and analyze how the concept of the beast changes throughout the novel and what it symbolizes about the two characters' inner fears and societal breakdown.
3. Ralph's leadership is central to the novel, but he faces many challenges in maintaining order and civility. Discuss how Ralph's leadership evolves over the course of the novel, and analyze whether he succeeds or fails in his efforts to maintain a civilized society on the island.
4. Throughout the novel, Jack's lust for power becomes more apparent, culminating in his complete abandonment of the group's initial goals. Analyze how Jack's thirst for power leads to his moral and social degradation, and contrast this with Ralph's attempts to maintain order.
5. The conch symbolizes authority and order at the beginning of the novel, but its significance diminishes as the boys descend into savagery. Examine how the conch serves as a symbol for civilization and authority, and how its destruction reflects the collapse of order on the island.
6. In Lord of the Flies, Golding presents a bleak view of human nature. Do you agree with his portrayal that humans are inherently savage and destructive, or do you think the novel suggests that civilization is the primary force shaping human behavior? Justify your response with evidence from the text.
7. Ralph and Piggy represent two different approaches to leadership and problem-solving. Compare and contrast their personalities, beliefs, and roles in the novel, and discuss how their relationship develops and ultimately affects the group's fate.
8. The boys in Lord of the Flies are isolated from society and its norms, leading to a breakdown of morality and social order. Explore how the novel depicts the effect of isolation on human behavior and discuss whether it supports or refutes the idea that moral behavior is dependent on societal structures.
9. Discuss the theme of innocence lost in Lord of the Flies through the actions and transformations of the boys on the island. How do their actions reflect their gradual loss of innocence, and what does this reveal about the relationship between guilt and moral development?
10. Characters such as Piggy, Simon, and the littluns play unique roles in Lord of the Flies, often serving as outsiders or marginalized figures. Analyze the significance of these characters and their relationship to the broader group, and discuss what they represent in terms of individuality, innocence, or moral conscience.

Ms. Pedroso can be reached at apedroso@dadeschools.net if you have any questions.